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Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 DHA-02 /105 W
---------- 036955 /17
R 162316Z DEC 76
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1761

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 6231

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, UNGA
SUBJECT: PLENARY ACTION ON SIXTH COMMITTEE ITEM -- HOSTAGES

REF: USUN 5670

SUMMARY. PLENARY ADOPTED RESOLUTION ON FRG HOSTAGES ITEM BY CONSENSUS ON DECEMBER 15. FRG, IRAQ, US, AND ISRAEL EXPLAINED VOTE. END SUMMARY.

1. PLENARY ADOPTED RESOLUTION ON HOSTAGES ITEM (A/31/430) BY CONSENSUS ON DECEMBER 15. RESOLUTION DECIDES TO ESTABLISH A 35-MEMBER AD HOC COMITE TO DRAFT AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES.

2. FOLLOWING ADOPTION IN PLENARY, FRG, IRAQ, US AND ISRAEL EXPLAINED VOTE. FRG EXPRESSED HOPE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION OF SIXTH COMITE WOULD CONTINUE IN HOSTAGES COMITE AND URGED CONVENTION BASED ON DUTY TO PROSECUTE OR EXTRADITE. IRAQ SAID WOULD HAVE ABSTAINED IN A VOTE BECAUSE RESOLUTION FAILED TO (1) DISTINGUISH BETWEEN CRIMINAL AND POLITICAL MOTIVATION FOR TAKING OF HOSTAGES; (2) REAFFIRM RIGHT OF NLM'S TO USE ANY MEANS TO ACHIEVE SELF-DETERMINATION; (3) ACKNOWLEDGE STATE TERRORISM KEPT WHOLE PEOPLES
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HOSTAGE; (4) NOTE PROBLEM WAS PART OF BROADER ISSUE OS INTERNATIONAL VIOLENCE. US (BENNETT) SAID CONFIDENT RESOLUTION REFLECTED "THE WIDESPREAD RECOGNITION THAT NO CAUSE CAN EXCUSE AND NO MOTIVE JUSTIFY SO CONDEMNABLE AN ACT AS THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES." ISRAEL SAID RESOLUTION WAS A POSITIVE AND IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT.

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3. AT WEO GROUP MEETING ON DECEMBER 15, THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES ANNOUNCED A FIRM INTEREST IN SERVING ON COMITE TO DRAFT CONVENTION: US, SWEDEN, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK, SPAIN, FRANCE, IRELAND, FRG, AND THE UK. THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES RESERVED THEIR POSITION PENDING INSTRUCTIONS: NEW ZEALAND, TURKEY, PORTUGAL, GREECE, NORWAY, AND THE NETHERLANDS.

4. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE (SEPTEL), PLENARY ALSO ADOPTED RESOLUTION WHICH RECONVENES AD HOC COMITE ON TERRORISM. DELOFF HAD SUGGESTED TO FRG THAT THEY ATTEMPT TO HAVE HOSTAGES COMITE MEETING SCHEDULED BEFORE TERRORISM COMITE MEETING SO THAT IF DELEGATES BROUGHT UP PROBLEMS OF STATE TERRORISM, NLM'S AND CAUSES OF TERRORISM, FRG AND OTHERS COULD SUGGEST THOSE PROBLEMS ARE MORE APPROPRIATELY DEALT WITH IN TERRORISM COMITE. FRG UNPERSUADED ORDER OF MEETING IMPORTANT SINCE, IN THEIR OPINION, IF TERRORISM COMITE FIRST, THAT WILL GIVE DELEGATES OPPORTUNITY TO "BLOW OFF STEAM" BEFORE HOSTAGES COMITE MEETS.

5. TERRORISM COMITE WILL MEET IN NEW YORK FROM MARCH 14 TO 25, 1977. THE HOSTAGES COMITE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET AUGUST 1 TO AUGUST 19, 1977 IN NEW YORK.
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